

Appendix C

STEBEN COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND SOUTHERN TIER REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN	SOUTHERN TIER REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL		
GOALS & OBJECTIVES	STRATEGY	ACTION ITEM	ACTION ITEM DESCRIPTION
<p>Goal 1: Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify value-added infrastructure and investments that support existing farms and farm products. Connect consumers directly to farmers. Support the local dairy industry. Ensure adequate support services are in place to address the needs of farmers. Encourage the use of renewable resources on agricultural lands. 	<p>Revitalize the rural-farm- and forest-based economy of the Southern Tier</p>	<p>4A: Rural Initiative Venture Fund</p>	<p>This regional program is designed to reduce financial risk and increase sustainability of agriculture and forestry ventures through product development and promotion, business infrastructure investment and the use of new technology.</p> <p>An example of projects to be funded include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processing facilities for value-added agricultural products, including facilities that could accommodate multiple producers such as commercial kitchens and mobile, USDA-certified meat processing facilities. Regional farmers' markets, and regional marketing initiatives, including wholesale markets and distribution businesses. Renewable energy including biomass production and processing.
	<p>The Southern Tier... New York's Leader in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technology</p>	<p>1B: Southern Tier Renewable Energy and Efficiency Program: Large Scale Institutional and Commercial Projects</p>	<p>This project involves large-scale energy efficiency retrofit projects, such as building improvements and the utilization of solar, geothermal, wind and biomass technologies (including storage).</p>
	<p>Manufacturing and Transportation Industry</p>		<p>This action is focused on the existing transportation industry and building the region into a technological hub for the next generation of transportation development.</p>
	<p>Economic Development Backbone</p>	<p>Developing Broadband Infrastructure</p>	<p>State-of-the-art connectivity will help businesses and landowners to expand their operations in areas that were traditionally rural.</p>
<p>Goal 2: Agribusiness Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attract new projects that leverage existing assets and support the development of value-added manufacturing of agricultural products. Explore options to develop an Agricultural Development Specialist position. Capitalize on the County's underutilized woodlands and grasslands. 	<p>Revitalize the rural-farm- and forest-based economy of the Southern Tier</p>	<p>4A: Rural Initiative Venture Fund</p>	<p>This regional program is designed to reduce financial risk and increase sustainability of agriculture and forestry ventures through product development and promotion, business infrastructure investment and the use of new technology.</p> <p>An example of projects to be funded include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in new technologies such as high tunnels to extend the growing season. The production of sustainably certified forest products. The projected 5-year outcomes and measurable results include the increase of applied technology developed at Cornell University to add value to agricultural and forest products.

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AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN	REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL		
GOALS & OBJECTIVES	STRATEGY	ACTION ITEM	ACTION ITEM DESCRIPTION
<p>Goal 3: Farmland Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain viable farmland for long-term agricultural use. Update municipal zoning laws and ordinances to ensure they are supportive of the agricultural industry. Ensure the farming community has continual representation in local planning decisions. 	<p>Revitalize the rural-farm- and forest-based economy of the Southern Tier</p>	<p>4A: Rural Initiative Venture Fund</p>	<p>This regional program is designed to reduce financial risk and increase sustainability of agriculture and forestry ventures through product development and promotion, business infrastructure investment and the use of new technology.</p> <p>An example of projects to be funded include new farm startups and transfers to the next generation of farmers.</p>
<p>Goal 4: Agri-tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a unique “brand” for locally produced agriculture products and businesses. Increase public understanding and support of agriculture in the community. Capitalize on the existing regional tourism base to attract visitors to existing agribusiness attractions. 	<p>Revitalize the rural-farm- and forest-based economy of the Southern Tier</p>	<p>4A: Rural Initiative Venture Fund</p>	<p>This regional program is designed to reduce financial risk and increase sustainability of agriculture and forestry ventures through product development and promotion, business infrastructure investment and the use of new technology. The program will help grow and diversify the region’s agricultural industries, as well as enhance other industries such as agri-tourism.</p>
	<p>Tourism and Waterfront Development</p>	<p>Growing Tourism</p>	<p>The REDC is committed to growing the tourism industry. The region is known for its natural resources and tourism and cultural destinations such as the Finger Lakes wineries and breweries.</p>
<p>Goal 5: Education, Outreach and Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate agriculture as part of the local school curriculum. Establish relationships with regional colleges and universities to facilitate mutually beneficial ventures. Foster collaboration between government, not-for-profit organizations and farmers / agribusinesses. Establish a clearinghouse of information of funding resources for farmers, businesses and municipalities. Provide farmers with access to the tools and information needed to run a successful business. 	<p>The Southern Tier... New York’s Leader in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technology</p>	<p>1D: Energy Workforce Development Initiative</p>	<p>This initiative will develop highly qualified and vibrant workforce prepared to respond to the opportunities resulting from the emergence of the energy industry in the Southern Tier.</p>
	<p>Revitalize the rural-farm- and forest-based economy of the Southern Tier</p>	<p>4A: Rural Initiative Venture Fund</p>	<p>This regional program is designed to reduce financial risk and increase sustainability of agriculture and forestry ventures through product development and promotion, business infrastructure investment and the use of new technology.</p> <p>An example of projects to be funded include: Investment in new technologies and renewable energy and biomass production and processing. There are numerous resources available to support this initiative including Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with its nationally recognized research and technology and effective relationships with farm cooperatives and marketing associations, and Cornell Cooperative Extension.</p>
	<p>Economic Development Backbone</p>	<p>Developing the Workforce</p>	<p>This action item is focused around the need to develop aggressive workforce training programs specific to emerging growth and industries. This closely aligns with the agricultural programs offered at the local colleges and young generation of farmers programs.</p>
	<p>Opportunity Agenda</p>	<p>Moving the population into the workforce</p>	<p>This is a key action item in the Council’s economic development plan focused on increasing joint efforts between educational institutions, employers and community organizations, building human capital through the learning of new skills, and removing barriers to employment.</p>